

THE LOMOND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB
JOURNAL.

NO.1

MARCH, 1944.

EDITORIAL:

This new venture "The Lomond Mountaineering Journal" is for the present at least, primarily intended to keep members, particularly you members in the Forces and away from Glasgow, in touch with the activities of the Club.

It is also intended to be a record of week-ends and excursions. We will be glad to receive any notes on your week-ends, also notes of Hills or Rockfaces that you come across that may be of interest to the rest of us. In other words, get all these discussions you have on climbing into the Journal so that we can all know about them.

From you members in the Forces we will welcome any news at all, so that we can pass it on and in this way keep in touch with each other. Members will therefore please keep us informed of any change of address.

We are planning at present to put out four Journals in the year - March, June, September and December.

All notices should be sent to the Editor, H. Grant, 12, Clincart Road, Glasgow, S.2.

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CLUB MEETINGS.

A.G.M. 1944.

The Annual General Meeting was held at 109, Gt. Western Rd., Glasgow, on 3rd February, 1944, and was presided over, as usual, by Mr. J. Harvey. There was a fine turn out of members for a war-time meeting.

The Treasurer, Mr. J. Bell, read his report for 1943-1944, which showed the Club with a nice credit balance of £38: 5: 6d - an excellent report for the present difficult times and leaves the Club in a strong position to meet its post-war plans.

The Office-bearers, who had all carried out their duties so faithfully and well, were unanimously elected to carry on for the coming term. They are as follows :-

PRESIDENT:

J. Harvey.

Vice-President:

R. Hutchison.

Vice-President:

Mrs. J. Nimlin.

Treasurer:

J. Bell.

Secretary:

C. Finlayson.

Committee Members:

C. Monteith. W. Wassel.

Trustees:

J. Harvey.
A. Hutchison

Auditors:

J. Shanks.
W. Russel.

Rope Convener:

J. Nimlin.

CLUB NOTES.

CLUB DANCE:

The Annual Club Dance was held this year as usual at the Prince of Wales Hall on Saturday, November 27th, 1943. There was a fine turn out of members and friends, and like a Clan Gathering, they came from "a' the airts."

Sam Drysdale, who is stationed in England, was fortunate to have his leave coincide with the Dance. Jimmie and Maisie Hainning and Danny (Lone-Cyclist) McGov., forsaking the tall timber, came to town with "dancing boots" and "Sunday vests" and rarin' to go.

Dick Williamson, who manages so few Meets nowadays, also kept this important date.

Renewing "auld acquaintances" added much to the success and enjoyment, and as usual at this function, as much time was spent exchanging yarns as dancing.

Altogether a grand evening, but, unfortunately, none of the members in the Forces managed along this year.

LANTERN LECTURES:

On December 2nd, 1943, Sam Drysdale gave an entertaining Cine-Show of the Club's activities. He had some fine shots of the various week-ends, including some particularly good ones of Harvey - à la Carl Brunning, giving a display of the noble art of rock-climbing and scree-running. Scenes of old Camp Sites and meals cooked on the "primus" brought back memories of the happy pre-war week-ends, and some excellent shots of the Club's ski-ing week-ends at Ba Cottage aroused much comment and criticism on the various members abilities to ski or otherwise. Indeed these scenes rivalled the antics in the Charlie Chaplin film that followed.

After the A.G.M. on 3rd February, Tommy McKee gave a short film show of Treucker's dramatic thriller, which gave the members plenty of scope for hisses and the old cries of "mind your back." The Pop-eye on Ski-ing and rock-climbing which followed left us with much to learn and many new tricks to add to our stock.

WEEK-ENDS.

NEW YEAR MEET 1943-44:

This New Year the Club had no fixed Meet but a good number of members managed out to different climbing centres. The weather, running true to form, was bad and snow conditions poor, but the members, also running true to form, all enjoyed themselves.

LOCHNAGAR:

As Alf Slack, who sent in the notes of this section said, "This Meet began by separating." Consequently, although three different parties set off from Ballater on Hogmonay, it was New Year's Day before they all joined forces, due no doubt to premature New Year Celebrations. All told the party consisted of Sandy Hutchison, Archie Kay, Peter and Chris McGeech, Tommy McKee, Bob and Jessie Chalmers, Alf. Slack and some friends of his. The "doss" was a garage loft and here Bob directed the setting up a festive board and the evening evaporated with their money under the cards. During the evening a friend of Alf's walked across the trap-door, which unfortunately being open, this gentleman fell some 10 feet to the cobbles below, but luckily broke no bones, although he was unable to climb the next day.

The following morning six of the party set off in a strong N.W. wind to the E. Corrie of Lochnagar. The snow was disappointing and/

and the rocks of Raeburn's Gully so precariously hung with ice as to render it unsafe, so the party continued on to the Black Spout. They tackled this straightforward Gully and at the fork Peter McGeech carried straight on while the remainder turned off to the left. Some 150 feet from the summit they found a small subsidiary Gully at a fairly steep angle and spent an amusing hour or so sheltered from the wind. A minute or so sufficed at the Cairn and the party hurried down, enjoying some fine standing glissades en route, but rain made an uncomfortable finish to the day.

Another party, distrusting the high wind on Lochnagar, spent the day on Meikle Pap.

A fall of snow during the night tempted a party of six and three pairs of Skis out on the hills next day. After a laborious climb to White MOUTH they found an old drift of hard snow with a certain amount of new snow and on this they spent the day ski-ing. During an odd moment A. Slack worked out the cost of this ski-run in the following fashion :-

| | | |
|---|-------|----------|
| The Skis had been brought 250 miles by rail | | £2. -. - |
| " " " " carried 12 miles by road | | 1. -. - |
| " " " " " 4 miles uphill to 3,000 ft. | | -.15. - |

The minimum estimate of expense and inconvenience..... £3.15. -

As the run was about 110 yards, it works out at 6d per yard --- truly ski-ing is a sport for the wealthy and this party must consider itself lucky it didn't get any more ski-ing.

On the day they all came home snow lay uniformly over the whole countryside and ski-ing would have been possible anywhere. As Alf says, "sometimes you think the weather does it on purpose."

BRIDGE OF ORCHY:

J. Harvey and a friend spent New Year's night under canvas at Coninish intending big things in Lui Gully. The night was wild with high wind and driving rain but to quote Harvey, "The Lomond Alpine Tents stood the test." The next day the weather remained the same so this party beat a rapid retreat to Tyndrum Hotel where they whiled away a pleasant hour or two before proceeding to Alf. Slack's cottage at Bridge of Orchy.

Here they joined John and Jenny Nimlin and Jimmy and Maisie Hainning. Trouble seemed to arise when this group finally "bedded down" for the night on the floor. Hungry rats descended upon these unfortunate climbers until some member, with commendable foresight, stuffed food down the rat holes and order was restored.

After this energetic week-end's climbing, the party proceeded home amid showers of snow. Nimlin cryptically describes this week-end as one of "big feeds."

BEN ALDER:

Another party, consisting of C. Finlayson, W. Wassel, C. Monteith and three friends made Ben Alder the scene of their New Year Meet and had as their base McCook's house on the shores of Loch Erich.

The weather was in general bad and no serious climbing was attempted.

attempted. They used their time to good purpose, however, making a thorough survey of the hill and report some very good corries and superb Gullies that should be of interest to any members with a few days to spare.

BEN STARAV:

Another small and selfish party consisting of Harry and Flo Grant spent five days in Glen Etive at the foot of the Ben Starav group. As this party was staying with friends it indulged in an orgy of "civilised" climbing - having hot-baths, prepared meals, and fires in their bed-rooms.

The weather was disgusting and only two days climbing was managed - both on Ben Starav. Snow conditions were mediocre but a short interesting Gully was climbed and the Ridge followed from Ben Starav to ?? While this mountain offers no continuous climbing there are some very fine pinnacles of rock and under good winter conditions would give first-rate Gully-climbing and good Ski-ing.

BEN LUI:

On the last week-end of February, A. Hutchison, R. Hutchison and A. Kay made the ascent of the Centre Gully - Ben Lui. With a strong N.E. wind blowing the climb was a cold one and 4 hours of step-cutting was required before the summit was reached. The snow for the most part was hard but some soft snow with a crust and some ice with a snow covering added variety. To make this altogether a full day this party walked from Crianlarich and then back again to the Hostel.

Another account of a climb on Ben Lui Gully comes in from C. Finlayson. A recent snow-fall brought the Climbers out in full force and a jovial and hopeful band loaded with Skis, Ice-axes and all the paraphernalia that is synonymous with snow, set off for this ever popular mountain.

The snow level was found to be a 2,000 feet, somewhat disappointing for the Skiers, who nevertheless, carted and pulled their Skis up the South ridge of Lui, where in the end they were abandoned and the party traversed into the Gully.

No less than four Clubs, L.M.C., Creag Dhu, S.M.C. and J.M.C.S. were represented among the swarms of Climbers and with good snow and an ice pitch at the top the climb was an excellent one.

DRUMYAT:

A party of the Club camped in Menstrie Glen on 18th March. A. Slack, J. Harvey, A. Kay with two lady friends climbed Raeburn's Gully on Drummyat under very cold and windy conditions.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce that Bill Griere, an energetic and enthusiastic member, has been killed in a flying accident. This makes the third casualty to Club Members, previous ones being George Blair, Royal Marines, drowned in action off Burma and Alex. Waldie, R.A.F. killed in a bombing raid over Germany.

Deep regret will be felt for the loss of these fine hill comrade by all members who have known their friendship in the past.

We round off the First Number of this Journal with Greetings to members at Home and Abroad who are unable to be with us on these week-ends.

Jennie Nimlin

11/3, Atlanta, Ga.

My dear Mr. [illegible]